

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Sasaki, and claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 on the basis of Sasaki in view of Kamijima. Applicants traverse these rejections because Sasaki is not prior art to the subject application. The U.S. filing date of the Sasaki reference is October 12, 2001. While the U.S. filing date of the subject application is July 15, 2003, it is a continuation and claims priority of PCT Application No. PCT/JP01/00191 filed on January 15, 2001, which predates the U.S. filing date of the Sasaki reference. Accordingly, the citation of the Sasaki reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is improper. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.


For the foregoing reason, Applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

February 15, 2006
300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080
Customer No. 24978

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By:


B. Joe Kim
Registration No. 41,895